

United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County helps conduct the Annual San Jose Veterans Day Parade.

One of the largest parades in California, the San Jose Veterans Day Parade serves to recognize and celebrate, with gratitude and appreciation, all those who have served and continue to serve with the U.S. Armed Forces. This year's theme of the Parade is, "A Century of Honoring Those Who Serve." Indeed, this occasion provides us with an opportunity to recognize our veterans, who serve to protect our freedom and foster the safety and prosperity that we enjoy as a nation. We gather to acknowledge also the families of all those who serve our nation and express our gratitude to them for their ongoing, steadfast support of our servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, we hereby recognize and commend those members of our U.S. Armed Forces, who have dedicated their lives in service of our country, as well as their families and communities, who have supported their service to our country. During our annual San Jose Veterans Day Parade, our community unites in celebration of all those who dedicate their lives to preserve and protect our way of life and our future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK CREEK
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commendation of the 50th anniversary of Black Creek Volunteer Fire Department based in Hanover County, Virginia. For the past 50

years, the Black Creek Volunteer Fire Department has proved indispensable to the Hanover community, not only protecting the lives of Hanover residents, but also serving as a unifying and cultural pillar of the community.

The Black Creek Volunteer Fire Department was formed in the spring of 1968 with approximately 30 members under the guidance and direction of then-President Douglas Mantlo, and the first Fire Chief, John Peace. Since the volunteer fire unit's founding, its members have served the public with distinction, risking their lives for the sake of others and building community through events like the Hanover Tomato Festival which the fire company started in 1978 and has continued to host every year.

The beginnings of the Tomato Festival were modest. Created as a fundraiser for the volunteer fire company as well as a way to celebrate the Hanover community, it featured a small parade, several fire department competitions, tomato judging contests and eleven vendors of food and crafts. This year, celebrating its 40th anniversary, the festival boasted record-breaking attendance, live music, and over 150 vendors.

The 50th anniversary of the Black Creek Volunteer Fire Company is a testament to the organization's long-standing commitment to the Hanover community. Whether it is the brave firefighters risking their lives to rescue the people of the area, or the cheerful commitment of the volunteer force to building a sense of neighborliness and fellowship in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Black Creek Volunteer Fire Company on their 50th anniversary as an organization, and in commending their dedicated efforts of lifesaving service and enthusiastic community-building. An admirable example of

leadership and devotion, and an outstanding cornerstone of our community, I commend the Black Creek Volunteer Fire Company on their accomplishments and wish them further success as they continue to serve our community. On behalf of America's First District, we say congratulations.

HONORING MICHAEL DORA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Michael Dora for his contribution to our state and Rush County.

As the former County Chairman, Michael spent years promoting and advancing Republican principles in Rush County. He has also served his community in a variety of other capacities, including as a volunteer EMT, firefighter, and youth sports coach. In 2017, Michael was appointed by President Trump to serve as State Director for the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development in Indiana. The impact Michael continues to make on Rush County cannot be overstated, and our state is better off today because of his extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, Michael has been a loyal friend and wise adviser during my entire tenure in Congress. I want to thank him for his friendship and support of my work. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.